DC

HARLEY QUINN

41

AGES 13+

COVER BY SWEENEY BOO

APPROVED BY THE AUTHORITY OF DC COMICS

HOWARD - BOO

OUTTA THE WAY, BIRD BOY!

AND GET READY TO FALL DOWN A NIGHTMARISH TALE OF--WELL, FALLING DOWN--BROUGHT TO YOU BY GRETCHEN FELKER-MARTIN, DANI & TRISH MULVIHILL!

POWERS STOLEN.

SPIRITS UNBROKEN.

© & ™ DC.

ABSOLUTE POWER

A four-issue blockbuster series
from MARK WAID and DAN MORA

STARTING IN JULY

THE TRINITY OF EVIL HAS WON...

AND

ABSOLUTE POWER BEGINS!

JUNE:

- [ ] *Absolute Power: Ground Zero* #1

TIE-IN:

- [ ] *Green Arrow* #13

JULY:

- [ ] *Absolute Power* #1
- [ ] *Absolute Power: Task Force VII* #1
- [ ] *Absolute Power: Origins* #1
- [ ] *Absolute Power: Task Force VII* #2
- [ ] *Absolute Power: Task Force VII* #3

TIE-INS:

- [ ] *Batman* #150
- [ ] *Green Lantern* #13
- [ ] *Superman* #16
- [ ] *Wonder Woman* #11
- [ ] *Green Arrow* #14

DC

© & ™ DC.

THE RESISTANCE CONTINUES IN AUGUST!

...AND THAT'S WHY IT'S ACTUALLY ***PERFECTLY NORMAL*** FOR EVERYONE TO OCCASIONALLY GET THE URGE TO DRIVE YER CAR OFFA BRIDGE.

SO HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN THOSE WEIRD THOUGHTS ***ARE*** A PROBLEM?

OH, I THINK I KNOW?

GO 'HEAD, ***XIAO!***

THE ***FOUR Ds,*** RIGHT?

YEAH!

NOW BEFORE MY INNER DEMONS TAKE OVER AND I SAY SOMETHIN' ***STUPID,*** ANYONE WANNA TELL ABOUT THE ***FOUR Ds?***

UMM... ***DISTRESS?***

LIKE, THE THOUGHTS HAVE TO CAUSE YOU PROBLEMS!

DEVIANCE, RIGHT? LIKE... FROM THE "NORM"?

YEP! AND THERE'S A ***FUN*** ONE...

DYSFUNCTION!

I KNOW HER WELL! AND LASTLY, THE ***STAR A'THE SHOW...***

BEEP BEEP

...DANGER.

LAST NIGHT. GOTHAM CITY POLICE STATION.

ME, I **LAUGH** IN THE FACE A'DANGER.

WHUD

BUT I BEEN KNOWN TO LAUGH AT SOME PRETTY **BAD TIMES.**

LIKE HERE!

AIN'T LAUGHIN' NOW, ***ARE*** YA, CLOWN?

...NOT... NOT YET...

LEMME GET ANOTHER LOOK AT THAT ***GOOFY FACE*** YOU GOT--

WHACK

YOU CAN'T @#$%&$^ HELP YOURSELF, QUINN.

THAT'S WHY I HATE YOUR TYPE. NO PAUSE, NO SELF-CONTROL. YOU NEVER THINK ABOUT WHAT ***EFFECT*** YOU HAVE ON PEOPLE.

YOU KNOW...I HAD A ***DAUGHTER*** ONCE.

"RAISED HER ALL BY MYSELF. HARDEST JOB OF MY LIFE.

"I DID MY DAMNEDEST TO KEEP HER AWAY FROM BAD INFLUENCES. BUT IN THIS CITY...?"

"...THAT'S DAMN NEAR IMPOSSIBLE."

Live

8 BREAKING NEWS GOTHAM CITY News

'SIRENS' STRIKE AGAIN!

QUIT BUGGIN' ME!

TINI HOWARD SCRIPT
SWEENEY BOO ART AND COLORS
STEVE WANDS LETTERS
SWEENEY BOO COVER
LEIRIX & FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA VARIANT COVERS
W. SCOTT FORBES DC PRIDE 2024 VARIANT COVER
CHUMA HILL 1:25 VARIANT COVER
JAMES REID ASSISTANT EDITOR
ARIANNA TURTURRO EDITOR
ROB LEVIN GROUP EDITOR
HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY PAUL DINI AND BRUCE TIMM

MY BABY GIRL WAS NEVER THE SAME AFTER SHE SAW YOU GIRLS OUT ROBBING BANKS, POUTING IN YOUR MUG SHOTS LIKE IT WAS A ***GAME.***

STARTED CUTTING CLASSES, CUTTING UP HER CLOTHES.

...I'M REAL SORRY TO HEAR THAT, BUT--

WHAM!

I AIN'T DONE, QUINN!

"SHE LIKED STEALING. SHE LEARNED IT FROM ***YOU.***

"LOCAL STORES PRETENDED THEY DIDN'T SEE A ***THING*** TILL SHE'D RACKED UP ENOUGH FOR A BIG CHARGE. FELONY THEFT.

"THEN THEY CALLED MOM.

"SIXTEEN AND A FELONY IN GOTHAM? JUDGE TRIED HER LIKE AN ADULT."

"SENT UPRIVER BY HER OWN ***MAMA?*** NOW ***THAT'S*** A VILLAIN ORIGIN STORY."

THINK OF IT LIKE A ***TIME-OUT.***

I'LL KEEP MY BABY GIRL BEHIND BARS IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES TO TEACH HER NOT TO BE LIKE ***YOU.***

YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ***ABOUT ME.*** I GOT STUDENTS YOUR DAUGHTER'S AGE--

YOU WANNA GET OUT OF HERE FOR A LITTLE BIT? SEE YOUR ***WIFEY?*** GET A CHANCE TO ***MAKE IT RIGHT*** BY YOUR STUDENTS?

...WHAT'S THE CATCH?

OH, I KNOW--DON'T GET ME ***STARTED*** ON THAT.

DON'T YOU DARE. THOSE STUDENTS ARE ***EVERYTHIN'*** TO ME--

THEN YOU'LL ***LISTEN UP.***

YOU'RE ***MINE NOW,*** IS THE CATCH. I ***OWN YOU.***

YOU'RE GONNA WEAR A ***WIRE,*** QUINN. YOU'RE GONNA BE TRACKED AND BUGGED, AND YOU'RE GONNA ACT NORMAL, CAUSE IT'S NOT ***YOU*** ANYONE ***CARES*** ABOUT.

I WANT ***BATMAN.***

...I THINK HE'S ***GOT*** A GIRLFRIEN'--

OW!

ONE MORE ***JOKE*** AND I PULL THE ***DEAL.***

I WANT HIS WHOLE ***FAMILY.*** I WANT THEIR IDENTITIES, I WANT THEIR ADDRESSES, I WANT WHAT'S UNDER THE MASKS. AND I WANT YOU TO STAY ON THEIR ASSES, RECORDING THEIR MOVES, UNTIL THEY ***SLIP UP*** AND I GET WHAT I NEED.

VILLAINS LIKE ***YOU*** ARE A SYMPTOM. ***BATMAN*** IS THE DISEASE.

WEAR THE WIRE AND DO WHAT YOU DO. TEACHER BY DAY, ***ASS-PAIN*** BY NIGHT.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE ***USEFUL*** TO ME, YOU STAY OUT OF ARKHAM.

YOU ***OWE ME.***

BUT I'LL SAY WHAT I GOTTA SAY TO GET OUTTA THIS PLACE.

GET THESE OFFA ME.

NOW, I GOT A RULE ABOUT COLLABORATIN' WITH THE GCPD.

I CAN THINK ON MY FEET, BUT NOT IF THEY'RE CUFFED TOGETHER.

...DEAL.

IT AIN'T MY FIRST TIME GETTIN' RELEASED AT SUNRISE, BUT IN THE PAST...

GOTHAM CITY POLICE

...I DIDN'T HAFTA **TEACH A CLASS** ON **NO SLEEP.**

AND NO **POST-JAIL SHOWER,** EITHER. YEUCH.

BUT I ALWAYS KEEP A CHANGE A'CLOTHES AROUND--HADDA SNEAK AROUND IN MY **SKIVVIES** ONE TOO MANY TIMES.

DID I FORGET @#$%&$^ SHOES--

I'M UNDER PULASKI'S ORDERS TO **ACT NORMAL,** SO I CAN'T MISS A DAY A'WORK OR THROW ANYONE OFF.

HEY PROFESSOR!

AAAAAND THAT ABOUT CATCHES US UP TO BEFORE!

OF COURSE I SURVIVED TEACHIN' A LECTURE ON NO SLEEP AND A BILLION BRUISES--

HARLEY!

YOU'RE OKAY!

--I HAD SOMETHIN' GREAT TO GO HOME TO.

I HAD THE POLICE SCANNER ON AND HEARD THEY BOOKED YOU.

RED... SHHH...

I WAS READY TO CAVE THAT WHOLE BUILDING IN WITH A SAMPLE OF ***ASPERGILLUS*** TO GET YOU OUT, BUT I KNEW YOU'D GET YOURSELF OUT IN TIME TO TEACH.

DID YOU JUST... ***SHUSH*** ME?

SHHHH! I MEAN--***NO!***

I MEAN-- YES--NOT LIKE THAT--

WHAT ARE YOU ***DOING?***

Love

I'M ONLY OUT CAUSE THEY BUGGED ME. WATCH WHAT YOU SAY.

YOU'RE COLLABORATING WITH THE COPS?!

I GOTTA!

THIS IS MY LAST WAY TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU. BEFORE I DO ***REAL*** TIME.

I JUST SAID YES TO GET OUTTA THERE-- NOT ACTUALLY COLLABORATING-- I GOT BETTER PLAN
PLAY ALONG

REAL HARD ***BAD TIME.***

SHE'S GOT ME, IVY. REAL BULLDOG OF AN OFFICER NAMED ***PULASKI.***

SHE'S SETTING UP A CASE AGAINST THE ***BATS.*** THEIR IDENTITIES AND WHERE THEY WORK OUTTA. ALL I GOTTA DO IS PROVOKE 'EM SO SHE CAN TRACK 'EM, LISTEN TO WHAT THEY SAY.

YOU UH... YEAH. YOU TRUST ME?

TRUST ME?

...I DO. FORGIVE ME IF I'M ***QUIET***--I WASN'T EXPECTING TO BE ON ***AIR.***

IT WON'T BE FOR ***LONG.***

I MEAN THAT, RED!

I GOTTA GO OUT. ONE A THOSE LI'L BABY BATS ALREADY ***KNOWS*** HARLEY QUINN IS BACK.

AND ACCORDIN' TO SCUTTLE-BUTT, USUALLY HE'S...

--AT THE MARINA!

NOW TA START THE CONVERSATION IN A BELIEVABLE WAY.

...

DIDN'T YOU AND I *JUST* HAVE THIS CONVERSATION, QUINN?

YOU AGAIN?

I THOUGHT YOU WERE *BOOKED!*

WHUD

YOU SLIPPERY LITTLE DUDE!

C'MERE, FIGHT ME, ROBIN!

I WAS NICE ENOUGH THAT I DIDN'T EVEN TELL *BATMAN* ABOUT IT.

I HEARD YA GOT A *BOYFRIEND.* DID YA TELL YER *BOYFRIEND?*

DON'T HIDE ME FROM 'IM-- *INNERDUCE ME!* WE CAN DOUBLE DATE!

WHAT DO YOU *WANT*, HARLEY?!

TO *DOUBLE DATE*, I JUST *SAID THAT!*

YOU *ARE* BEING AGGRESSIVE...

...EVEN FOR *YOU!*

ZZ

ZZ

I AIN'T *AGGRESSIVE*-- YOU JUST DON'T GET IN *REAL FIGHTS* WITHOUT *TWENTY-SIDED DICE!*

KEEP TALKING, QUINN!

OOOH, YA GONNA TELL YER BOYFRIEND ABOUT *THIS,* BOY WONDAH?

QUIET.

...BATMAN WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU.

HE SAW YOU GET BOOKED AND RELEASED THE SAME NIGHT AND SAID YOU WERE AN *OBVIOUS CATCH-AND-RELEASE.* THAT YOU'RE *DEFINITELY* BUGGED.

THE WAY YOU'RE TALKING? JUMPING ME FOR *NO REASON?*

SHHSHSHH SHSHSH!

I CAN TE--

GEE YOU REALLY ARE THE SMARTEST ROBIN, HUH? DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD. IF WE MAKE SOME NOISE TO COVER US WE CAN PROBABLY TALK IN PEACE.

EMERGENCY ALARM.

RYOORYOORYOOR!

I DON'T GOT ONE'A THOSE!

TSHH

WOOOOOPWO

HARLEY! THAT CAR BELONGS TO MY *NEIGHBOR!*

NOW WE CAN TALK IN *PEACE!*

RYOOWOOOOPWHOOOO

RYOOO

COPS MIGHT BE WATCHIN' US, SO KEEP TAKIN' SWINGS, LIKE WE'RE FIGHTIN'!

WHOO

RYOOWOOOOPWHOOOO

WE ARE FIGHTING--! YOU BROKE A CAR WINDOW!

OOOOH YOU'RE SO CONVINCING!

SO YER RIGHT ABOUT THE COPS. THEY GOT ME WIRED.

WHO DO THEY HAVE YOU INFILTRATING?

WHOOORYOOWOOOOR

YOU. BATMAN. *YOUR BIG BOOTY BROTHER.*

THE GIRLS, TOO. YA *WHOLE FAMILY.*

SHE THINKS WE'LL SLIP UP AND SHE CAN USE WHATEVER INFO SHE GETS TO IDENTIFY US--*ALL OF US.*

WE GOTTA KEEP MEETING UP AND MAKIN' IT LOOK LIKE WE'RE FIGHTING.

BRRRRPLAPPLAP

BRRRRPLAPPLAPLAPPLAP

WHAP

OW!

THE LONGER WE DO, THE LONGER I CAN STAY OUT.

SHOULD YOU BE OUT?

ROBIN! C'MON! I'M NO JOKER! I'M NOT EVEN A TWO-FACE, THAT JOYLESS WEIRDO.

BUT YOU *DID* HELP FREEZE.

BRRRRPLAPPLAPLAPPLAP

I WAS HELPIN' HIM!

NO-- NOT EVEN! I WAS HELPIN' *OTHER PEOPLE!* HE WAS TRYIN' TO TRAIN SOME NEW RECRUITS AND ASKED ME TO DO IT.

HE STABBED ME IN THE BACK-- IT WAS A SETUP TO DISTRACT THE COPS! YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME? HOWABOUT I HELP YA TAKE HIM OUT? I KNOW EVERYTHING--I BEEN INSIDE THE *ICESCRAPER!*

AND I NEED A REASON TO BE AROUND YA SO PULASKI DOESN'T GET SUSPICIOUS I'M DOUBLE-TIMIN'.

ACCORDING TO *HIM,* HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE *THAT* WITHOUT YOUR HELP.

HEY! HE AIN'T WRONG, BUT IT AIN'T WHATCHA THINKING! HE TRICKED ME!

SO YOU *WERE* COLLABORATING WITH HIM?

HNNGH!

DON'TCHA WONDER HOW IT GOT UP SO FAST?

THAT'S WHAT HE WAS SETTIN' ME UP FOR! IT'S SOME *SPACE ICE* THAT WAS BEIN' TRANSPORTED FROM THE OBSERVATORY TO S.T.A.R. LABS.

I READ ABOUT THAT--THE SAMPLE WAS TAKEN FROM A COMET PROBE. IT'S THE *COLDEST* SUBSTANCE EVER BROUGHT TO EARTH.

FREEZE MUST HAVE USED IT LIKE A SEED CRYSTAL TO CONSTRUCT HIS BUILDING ATOP THE SCAFFOLDING, LIKE ICE-NINE IN *CAT'S CRADLE.* YOU READ THAT BOOK, RIGHT, HARLEY?

...NO, YA *DORK KNIGHT--*

WHAT WAS THAT?

NOTHIN'-- C'MON! WE CAN CLIMB UP THE SIDE WITH YA GADGETS, AND I CAN SHOW YA WHERE THE CORE IS!

SO...FREEZE'S PLAN, THESE ***TRAINEES.***

LIKE... ***ROBINS?***

NAH--WHY, YOU JOB-HUNTIN'?

I'M ***KIDDING.*** LESS LIKE ROBINS, MORE LIKE ASPIRIN' JUNIOR VILLAINS.

HE ***SAID*** HE WANTED A CREW, BUT WHO KNOWS--MIGHTA ALL BEEN PART OF THE SETUP.

I WAS ***TRYIN'*** TO DO IT SO THEY WOULDN'T END UP WORKIN' FOR A GUY LIKE FREEZE--MAYBE I COULD REDIRECT 'EM!

US ***VILLAIN*** TYPES--WE DO IT CAUSE WE GOT A ***PASSION,*** YANNO?

ONE NOBODY ELSE UNDERSTANDS. THAT'S WHY YOU SAW ME WITH MAXIE ZEUS...I'M ***HELPIN'*** HIM TOO. I THOUGHT IF I COULD HELP PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEIR PASSIONS...

--FREEZE. YEAH.

...YOU COULD KEEP THEM FROM BECOMING LIKE--

THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY. I WASN'T GOING TO SAY ***YOU,*** IF THAT'S WHAT--

HEY, FOCUS UP.

I'M ABOUT TA SHOW YA THAT SECRET I PROMISED.

UP HERE! IT SHOULD BUT UNDER THE FROST--

IN HERE.

SO *THAT'S* WHAT THAT WAS FOR...

OF COURSE FREEZE CAN'T JUST LET NORA* BE FREE...HE HAS TO USE HER IMAGE TO POWER HIMSELF.

WE CAN'T GO IN THERE LIKE THIS. THAT COLD WILL KILL US.

WHADDYA MEAN? WE'RE TOUCHIN' THE SAME ICE RIGHT NOW!

I'M TAKING A READING. OUT HERE WHERE IT HITS THE ATMOSPHERE OF GOTHAM, IT WARMS SO QUICKLY IT ***SUBLIMATES--***

--OUR HANDS AREN'T ACTUALLY TOUCHING THE ICE-- THERE'S A MICROSCOPIC CUSHION OF AIR BETWEEN THE ICE AND US!

*Freeze's ex-wife! He really needs to move on! --Arianna

AY YI YI, THE ***BRAIN*** ON THIS ONE--

OOP-- THEY SPOTTED US.

GET DOWN!

WE'VE GOT MOVEMENT AROUND THE FROZEN ATRIUM, NO VISUALS.

BRATTATATAT

--TELL ME YOU CAN FLY!

I CAN *GLIDE*--IF IT'S JUST *ME!*

OH, AM I *TOO HEAVY?!*

FOR WHAT, *GRAVITY?!*

DO SOMETHING!

IGOTITIGOTIGOTIT--

WHACK

GOOD THINKING, HARLEY. I'VE GOT IT FROM HERE--

PAFF!

I WANNA DO THE SMOKE BOMB THIS TIME.

BRATTATAA

@#%$! THEY EVADED US.

PFFF

ROLL BACK SECURITY FOOTAGE AND SEND TO FREEZE FOR ANALYSIS. WE'LL HUNT THEM DOWN.

OOH, YOU GOT A MICROWAVE ON THAT BELT?

BEEP BEEP

ENVIRONMENTAL READINGS FROM THE ICESCRAPER.

JUST LIKE I THOUGHT. THE INTERNAL TEMPERATURE IS JUST OVER ***ABSOLUTE ZERO.***

THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GO IN THERE. THE FROZEN WATER VAPOR IN THE AIR WOULD SHRED OUR LUNGS LIKE ***GLASS.*** I'LL TAKE THIS DATA BACK TO BATMAN--

ARE YOU DUMB?!

YOU AIN'T TAKIN' MY REVENGE FROM ME, FIRST AND FIRST- ***MOSTLY.***

FREEZE ***HUMILIATED*** ME, AND YOU AIN'T JUST GONNA TAKE MY INTEL BACK TO THE BAT TO MOP IT UP!

I AIN'T GOING ***NOWHERE.***

YOU TELL HIM TO ***TAKE IT UP WITH ME!***

I'M BUGGED TO GET INTEL ON THE BAT, REMEMBE YOU BRING THE R HERE AND YOU' PLAYING INTO THE COP'S HANDS!

OKAY. FINE. YOU VERSUS FREEZE.

YOU'LL NEED ME TOO. YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE WITHOUT EQUIPMENT.

YOU GONNA *STEAL?* FROM *BATMAN?!* FOR *ME?!*

NO! I HAVE SEVERAL OTHER RESOURCES FROM WHICH I CAN GET US SOME SERIOUS, KELVIN-LEVEL COLD GEAR.

YEAH, THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

I'LL MAKE HOT CHOCOLATE.

HAH, YOU SOUND LIKE MY BOYFRIEND. HE MAKES HIS WITH A SPECIAL--

SHH! DON'T SAY NOTHIN' PERSONAL! SHE COULD USE ANYTHING TO FIND YA.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT YER DUMB BOYFRIEND! BYE!

BUT I'D LOVE TA HEAR ABOUT HIM WHEN WE AIN'T BEING SPIED ON!

I'M EXHAUSTED. I AIN'T SLEPT IN TWO NIGHTS, AND I'M DYIN' TA HIT THE HAY.

SQUISH

*BUT I GOT **ONE** MORE STOP.*

TECHNICALLY, **TWO** MORE.

EXHAUSTED OR NOT, I AIN'T GONNA LEAVE MY NEW PAL OUT IN THE COLD.

MAXIE!

HARLEY QUINN!

I HAVE BEEN PRAYING IN THIS CAVE FOR SO LONG, I KNEW NOT WHETHER I WOULD SEE YOUR FRIENDLY SPIRIT AGAIN!

AW, BUDDY, OF COURSE YOU WERE GONNA. I HAD TA COME SEE YA. YOU LOOK--

WEAK AND POWERLESS?

HUNGRY.

APOLLO'S CHARIOT-- DOLMADES! FROM OUR FAVORITE MERCHANT!

HEY--YEAH, I GOTTA GO. ENJOY THOSE--

OH, I WILL, FRIEND, AS I HAVE ENJOYED YOUR BRIGHT COMPANY!

TILL WE MEET AGAIN!

*EAT **EVERYTHING** IN THAT BAG, BUDDY!*

I'M BUGGED, SO I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING--BUT I'M ON OUR SIDE, NOT THEIRS. BE PATIENT, HOLD ON, DEEP BREATHS, EAT THIS NOTE

WHO LET QUINZEL IN TO VISIT THIS GUY?!

YOU IDIOTS--

--I HEARD SHE WAS WORKIN' FOR YOU!

YOU DIDN'T HEAR @#$%!

AND ***ZEUS***--NO OUTSIDE FOOD!

YOU HANDLE A GOD--

THEY TOLD ME YOU ***LIKE THE TASERS,*** YOU FREAK.

WHOK

SO I GOT THE GO-AHEAD TO GO STRAIGHT TO ***SEDATIVES.***

...***OH...*** QUINZEL.

YOU SLOPPY ***CLOWN.*** LOOKS LIKE YOU FORGOT TO BRING ME ANYTHING...

...SO I'LL ***BEAT THE BAKLAVA*** OUTTA YOUR ***FRIEND HERE.***

NOOOOO...

NEXT TIME: THE POLICE ALSO SAY "FREEZE!"

HARLEY QUINN in "THE CAVE"

SCRIPT
Gretchen Felker-Martin

ART
DaNi

COLORS
Trish Mulvihill

LETTERS
Hassan Otsmane-Elhaou

ASSISTANT EDITOR
James Reid

EDITOR
Arianna Turturro

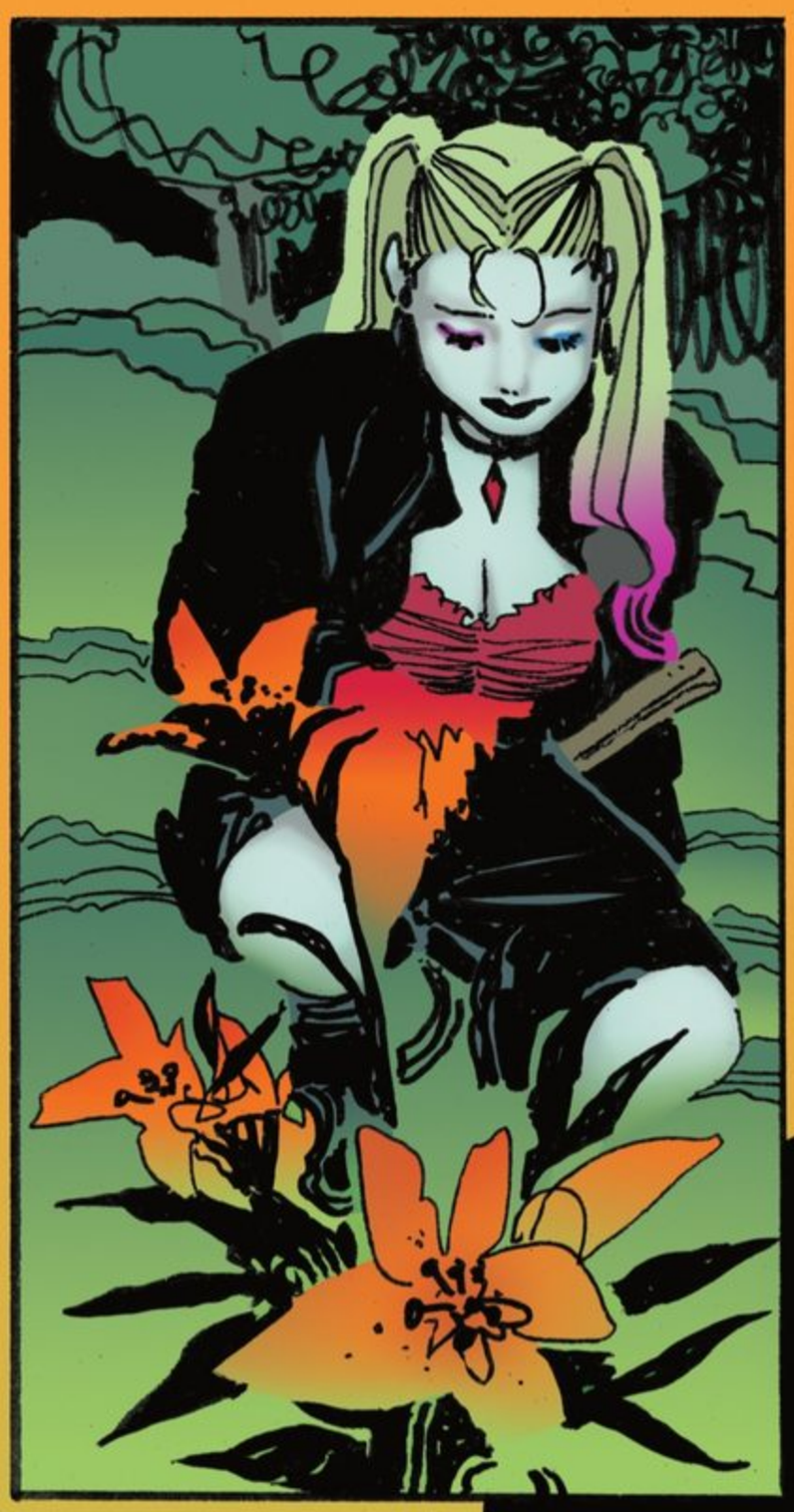
GROUP EDITOR
Rob Levin

IVY? ARE YOU THERE?

How'd I get here?

Feel like I went through a brick wall...

She'd **love** this place.



crap.

KLUNK

=Sigh=

Aw, man.

Crap--

--crap--

--crap.

HEY, UGLY!

KRSSH

BIG MISTAKE, PAL!

BABE? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Babe?

...

MMF

Mmm. **Bad dream,** baby?

I was at Wayne Manor, but I couldn't find that **dreamy Bruce Wayne** anywhere.

Go back to bed, you goof.

END.

THE DARK KNIGHT'S SECRET IDENTITY IS FOR SALE IN THIS SPECIAL OVERSIZE ISSUE!

BATMAN #150

ABSOLUTE POWER TIE-IN

© & ™ DC.

WRITTEN BY
CHIP ZDARSKY

ART BY
JORGE JIMÉNEZ
DENYS COWAN
JOHN STANISCI
MIKE HAWTHORNE
ADRIANO DI BENEDETTO

DC

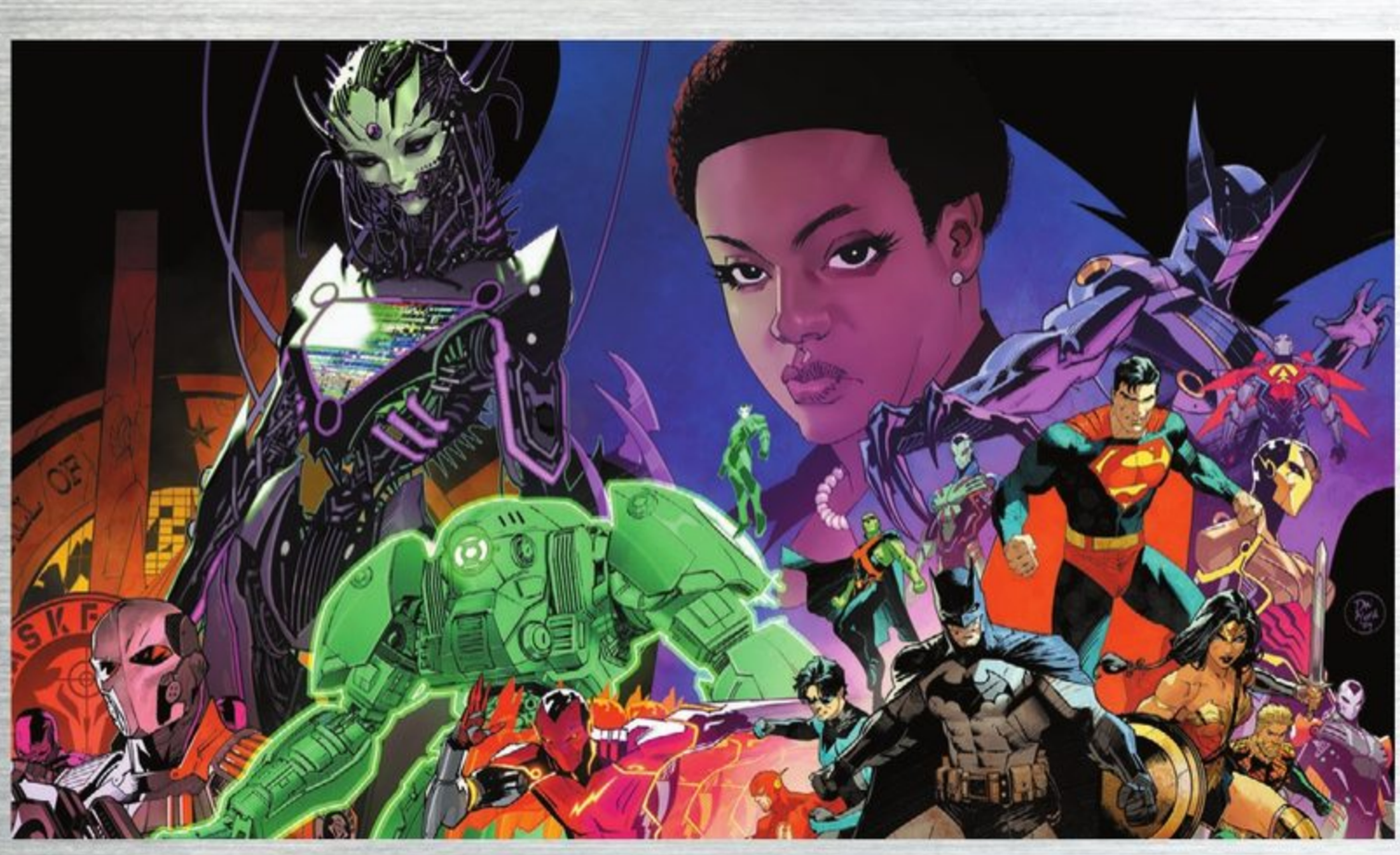
JULY

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ABSOLUTE POWER

INTERVIEW WITH MARK WAID

Thanks to the combined forces of Failsafe and the Brainiac Queen, Amanda Waller has stolen the metahuman abilities of every hero and villain on Earth. But it's not the powers that make DC's heroes super, and in *Absolute Power* by the superstar team of writer Mark Waid and artist Dan Mora, a resistance will rise to take the fight to Waller's Task Force VII—though the odds have never been worse for our heroes.



Mark, what does taking away the powers of DC's heroes allow you to explore in these characters that fans haven't seen before?

Genuine, down-to-the-bone fear. Not only are the heroes utterly powerless, but every resource has been taken from them. Because Waller knows everyone's secrets, she's been able to cut heroes off from their home bases and strip them of their equipment—no Bat-arsenal for you, Bruce; no Terrifictech for you, Mr. Terrific; no lasso for you, Wonder Woman. Waller's sealed the time stream. She's walled off the Multiverse and the Microverse. She's had the Earth quarantined by the United Planets, leaving the heroes nowhere to run, nowhere to retreat. Ordinary people won't help the heroes because Waller's used A.I. fake news to convince humanity that the heroes have gone berserk. And the relentless Amazos just won't stop hunting them, not for one second.

Remember, I've read every single DC superhero comic ever, and I am here to tell you, I set out to make things more hopeless for our heroes than they have ever been. And that's just in the first issue.

***Absolute Power* encompasses multiple heroes and villains from across the DC Universe. Who are you having the most fun writing in this story? Which characters should readers keep an eye on that might be unexpected?**

I think everyone will be surprised at who's leading the powerless heroes—it's not Superman, Batman, or Wonder Woman, but the choice, to me, was obvious. Jon Kent and Dreamer have also become major players, as has Steve Trevor.

Plus, from the Island of Totally Forgotten Heroes, we've drafted Air Wave into the fight for a very specific reason. And what the hell is happening with Green Arrow, man?

Fans are familiar with the pairing of you and Dan Mora from *Batman/Superman: World's Finest*, but what are you seeing from his work in *Absolute Power* that has surprised you?

I didn't know Dan *could* surprise me any further, but I was wrong. The stakes in *Absolute Power* are so, so much higher than they are in *World's Finest*, and Dan expertly creates a sense of dread that permeates every page of this book.

DON'T MISS ABSOLUTE POWER #1, ON SALE IN JULY!

DC COMICS MARIE JAVINS VP – Editor-in-Chief JIM LEE President, Publisher & Chief Creative Officer ANNE DePIES Senior VP & General Manager LARRY BERRY VP – Brand Design & Creative Services DON FALLETTI VP – Manufacturing & Production LAWRENCE GANEM VP – Editorial Programming & Talent Strategy NICK J. NAPOLITANO VP – Publishing & Business Operations NANCY SPEARS VP – Sales & Marketing

HARLEY QUINN 41. August, 2024. Published monthly by DC Comics, 4000 Warner Blvd., Bldg. 700, 2nd Floor, Burbank, CA 91522. GST # is R125921072. Copyright © 2024 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof, and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters, and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories, or artwork. For Advertising and Custom Publishing contact dccomicsadvertising@dc.com. For details on DC Comics Ratings, visit dc.com/ratings.